## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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INTERIOR DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES SURPLUS BIG-GAME SALES

Live buffalo as well as buffalo and elk meat will again be available this year through the Interior Department's annual surplus big-game sales at three National Wildlife Refuges, the Department announced today.

A total of 255 buffalo and 192 elk is to be sold. Live buffalo and buffalo meat will be sold from all three of the refuges--Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Cache, Okla.; Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, Valentine, Neb.; and the National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.

Elk meat sales will be from Wichita Mountains and Fort Niobrara. There will be no sales of live elk.

Surplus animals are removed from these three refuges each year to prevent herds from exceeding the capacity of the ranges.

Live buffalo will sell for \$235 each, with prices for butchered animals ranging from \$260 to \$320 per carcass, depending on processing. Quarters and halves also will be sold. Elk and buffalo meat will be available packaged and frozen, except from the National Bison Range, where freezer facilities are not available. Orders to the National Bison Range should come only from the northwestern United States.

Butchered elk prices will range from \$130 to \$165 per animal, again varying with the type of processing. A half carcass is the minimum quantity that can be purchased.

Should the number of orders received by refuge managers on or before September 30 exceed the number of animals authorized for disposal, a drawing will be held October 1 to select applicants. Any orders received after September 30 will be honored on a first-come-first-served basis, provided animals or meat are still available after that date.

The official price list and conditions of sale can be obtained from the managers of the respective refuges or from the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., 20240, but the Bureau emphasized that orders should be sent only to the manager of the refuge involved.